

U.S. Serial No. 10/664,761
Amendment dated September 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (previously presented): A non-woven composite material comprising:

first and second non-woven layers laminated together wherein the fibrous component of the second layer is relocated into the fibrous structure of the first non-woven layer and presented on the surface of the first layer in regions where the fiber density of the first layer are lower than the surrounding regions.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method of making a colored non-woven composite material, comprising the steps of:

providing a non-woven layer having a heterogeneous fiber density described in a predetermined pattern or image,

providing a polymeric material layer having a different aesthetic quality than the first non-woven layer,

applying the polymeric material layer onto the non-woven polymeric layer to induce relocation of the polymeric material into the fibrous structure of the first non-woven layer,

whereby the polymeric material layer is apparent on the face of the non-woven fabric in the regions of the first non-woven layer where the fiber density is lower than the surrounding regions of the first non-woven layer.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the non-woven component layer is a hydroentangled fabric.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 13, wherein:

the second non-woven layer is selected from carded fibrous batt, air-laid fiber, spun-laid filament, melt-blown filament, consolidated non-woven fabric or combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

the non-woven component layer is comprised of material selected from staple length natural fiber, staple length polymeric fiber, continuous polymeric filament, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the polymeric material layer is selected from extruded films, thermoset films, cast films, extruded foams, sprayed-on foams or combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the different aesthetic quality of the polymeric material layer is selected from variations in color, tint, hue, brightness, opacity, or combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the non-woven fabric layer is in the basis weight range of about 0.5 to 5.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the polymeric material layer is in the basis weight range of about 0.25 to 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the polymeric materials may have alternating or differing aesthetic qualities.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the polymeric material layer is applied in a predetermined pattern.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method of making a non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 12, wherein:

the polymeric material layer may be at equivalent or differing concentrations.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A non-woven composite material comprising:
a nonwoven layer and a polymeric material layer laminated together wherein the polymeric material layer intrudes upon the fibrous structure of the non-woven layer and is presented the surface of the first layer in regions where the fiber density of the first layer are lower than the surrounding regions.

Claim 24 (new). A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
at least one of said first and second non-woven layers is a hydroentangled fabric.

Claim 25 (new). A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
the second non-woven layer is selected from the group including carded fibrous batt, air-laid fiber, spun-laid filament, melt-blown filament, consolidated non-woven fabric, or combinations thereof.

Claim 26 (new) A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
the first non-woven layer is comprised of materials selected from the group including staple length natural fiber, staple length polymeric fiber, continuous polymeric filaments, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 27 (new). A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
the second non-woven layer exhibits a different aesthetic quality than the first non-woven layer, wherein the different aesthetic quality of the second non-woven layer is selected from the group including variations in color, tint, hue, brightness, opacity, or combinations thereof.

Claim 28 (new). A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:

the first non-woven fabric layer is in the basis weight range of 0.5 to 5.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 29 (new). A non-woven composite fabric in accordance with claim 11, wherein:
the second non-woven layer is in the basis weight range of 0.25 to 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 30 (new). A nonwoven composite material in accordance with claim 23, wherein:
the polymeric material is selected from the group including extruded film, thermoset films, cast films, extruded foams, sprayed-on forms, and combinations thereof.

Claim 31 (new). A non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 23, wherein:
the polymeric material layer exhibits a different aesthetic quality than the non-woven layer, wherein the different aesthetic quality of the polymeric layer is selected from the group including variations in color, tint, hue, brightness, opacity, and combinations thereof.

Claim 32 (new). A non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 23, wherein:
the polymeric material layer is in the basis weight range of 0.25 to 6.0 ounces per square yard.

Claim 33 (new). A non-woven composite material in accordance with claim 23, wherein:
the polymeric material layer is applied in a predetermined pattern.